

CANOPY FEED METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR A TRIM PRESS

ABSTRACT

The feeding of plastic sheet material to a trim press is carried out utilizing an endless belt conveyor which supports and drives the plastic sheet in a manner which is coordinated with the cycle of drawing of the sheet material into the trim press dies. The surface of the conveyor belt supports the plastic sheet for upward movement with little or no dragging of the sheet material, and the position of the plastic sheet being engaged with the conveyor can be set by an operator utilizing guide plates and guide wheels located at a position near the intake end of the conveyor. The conveyor belt may be driven continuously at a rate corresponding to the rate at which plastic sheet is drawn into the trim press, or in intermittent motion by a motor in a manner that is coordinated with the intermittent feeding of the sheet material into the trim press.